

Dear members of the Select Board:

At its meetings of January 9 and February 6, 2007, the Public Works Committee discussed the proposal for limiting parking on the streets near the high school that the former Town Manager made in March 2006. The committee noted that the proposed changes are mostly minor in nature and have the benefit of rationalizing parking patterns on the streets in question.

Without taking a position on the issue of high school student parking in general, the committee voted 6-0 to recommend the following aspects of the proposal:

- 1) No parking either side on Chestnut and High Streets.
- 2) No parking east side on Gray and Cottage Streets.
- 3) No parking north side on Taylor Street.

The committee further voted 5-0 (with one member absent) to recommend:

- 4) No parking on the south side of Taylor Street within two car lengths (approximately forty feet) on either side of the Newell Court intersection.

The committee declined to make any recommendation about parking on Kellogg Avenue and Mattoon Street.

The committee requests that its recommendations be conveyed to all persons who have contacted either the Select Board or the Department of Public Works about this issue, and that the Public Works Committee be notified when this matter is scheduled to be addressed by the Select Board.

Thank you for requesting our input.

For the Public Works Committee,
Robert J. Crowner, chair

Muted

1/23/06

AMHERST *Massachusetts*



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January 23, 2006

TO: RESIDENTS OF STREETS AROUND AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

FROM: Barry L. Del Castilho, Town Manager

As the result of complaints from some of you, as well as my own observations of parking by high school students and others on streets around Amherst Regional High School, I asked the Amherst Fire Department for recommendations. Those recommendations are as follows:

Mattoon Street: no parking any time, both sides

Taylor Street: no parking any time, one side

Gray Street: no parking any time, one side (no change proposed for Gray St. Ext.)

High Street, Chestnut to Clifton: no parking any time, both sides

Chestnut Street: no parking any time, both sides (a change for only one segment)

Cottage Street, Triangle to Chestnut: no parking any time, one side

Kellogg Avenue: no parking any time, both sides

I know that there will be different perceptions as to whether these proposed parking regulations will solve or create problems, so before I make recommendations to the Select Board, which establishes parking regulations for the Town, I am seeking your input. The easiest way for many of you to communicate your thoughts about this situation will be by email to townmanager@amherstma.gov. You may, of course, write to me at 4 Boltwood Avenue, or you may call 259-3002 either to leave a brief message or to speak with me. You may also use any of those methods simply to indicate that you wish to be notified of the date on which the Select Board will consider my recommendations, probably mid-February, depending upon how many differences of opinion from you need to be considered.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

cc: Select Board
Keith Hoyle, Fire Chief
Mark Jackson, Principal, ARHS



mailed
3/17/06

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March 17, 2006

TO: RESIDENTS OF STREETS AROUND AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

FROM: Barry L. Del Castilho, Town Manager *BD*

In January I wrote to most of you and asked for comments about the Fire Department's recommendations for parking restrictions on streets around Amherst Regional High School. Many comments were received by mail, email and phone. Thank you for those.

On March 27 at 7:00 p.m. the Select Board will consider (but may or may not make decisions on) the following recommendations:

Mattoon Street: no parking any time, both sides
No comments were received.

Taylor Street: no parking any time, north side
Some people recommended no parking on both sides, but I will recommend one side at this time.

Gray Street: no parking any time, east side
This is no change except to remove a no parking sign on the west side, south of Taylor Street. No change is proposed for the Gray Street extension.

High Street, Chestnut to Main: no parking any time, both sides
This recommendation elicited the greatest variety of recommendations. My recommendation is based on the fact that the road is too narrow to allow parking on either side at any time without blocking the travel lane of what is, de facto, a through street (like Chestnut Street, which is my street). I have support for this recommendation from the school. I apologize that those of you from Clifton to Main were not included in the first mailing.

Chestnut Street, Cottage to East Pleasant: no parking any time, both side
The south side is currently no parking 7 am-5 pm, so this recommendation simply extends no parking any time, both sides to that area.

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7

Thus Chestnut and High would be no parking any time, both sides, for the entire length of this short-cut around downtown, something that undoubtedly encourages traffic and speed. This area, at least near the schools, is on the list for a traffic calming study to address those issues.

Cottage Street: no parking any time, east side

Some people recommended no parking on both sides, but I would recommend one side at this time.

Kellogg Avenue: no change

The above restrictions may result in problematic parking on Kellogg Avenue, Triangle to Smith, but currently almost no parking occurs on that segment, so there is no need for a change.

In my experience, there are no right or wrong answers to parking issues. Perception usually plays a big role in one's opinions about parking, unless there is a measurable, physical factor that is determinative. I'm not wed to any of these recommendations, and I expect that there will be an interesting debate on at least some of them. I welcome your participation.

Thank you again for your feedback.